

How to use the washing machines at the 17. listopadu Dormitory

By not following the guidelines, you risk damaging your clothes irreversibly. Always check the labels on your clothes for specific instructions.

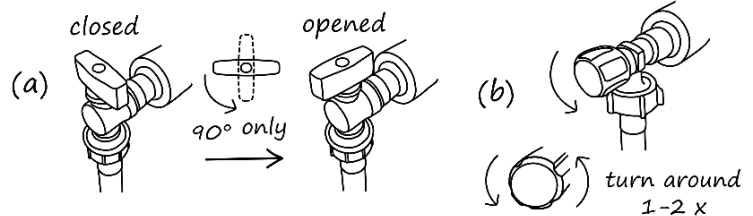
1. Plug the washing machine in

- Some washing machines turn on automatically when choosing a cycle, some have to be activated manually by pressing a specific button.

2. Open the water tap

There can be two types of taps:

- Ball tap
- Angle-stop tap that needs to be turned all the way.

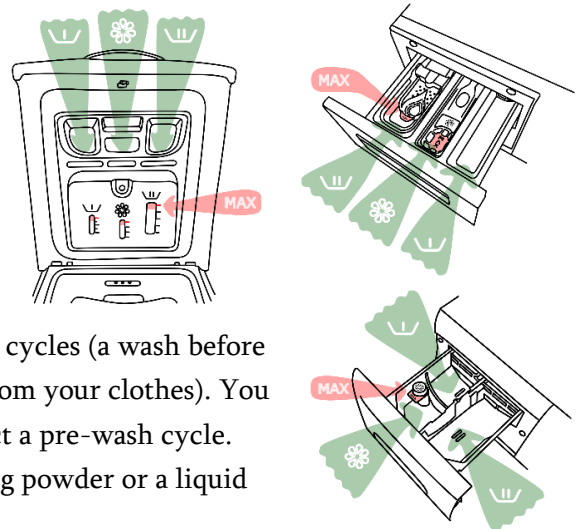


3. Put the detergent into the dispenser

- Front-loading machines have dispenser drawers located outside (usually next to the control panel).
- Top-loading machines have dispensers on the inner side of the lid.

There are usually three different compartments within the drawer:

- I – The **pre-wash** compartment is used for pre-wash cycles (a wash before the main cycle, which helps to remove tough dirt from your clothes). You can leave this compartment empty if you don't select a pre-wash cycle.
- II – The **main wash** compartment is where a washing powder or a liquid detergent is supposed to go.
 - If you use laundry capsules or tablets, put them straight into the drum before your laundry. Otherwise, they might not dissolve completely and they might leave traces on your clothes.
 - Some machines have an additional flap for liquid detergent within the main wash compartment. If you're using washing powder, take this flap out or reposition it so that it does not block the release of the powder.
 - If you select a pre-wash cycle or delayed wash while using liquid detergent, make sure to use the flap within the drawer. This prevents the gel from being used up before the main cycle even begins.
- III – The **fabric softener** compartment (also **marked by a flower symbol**) is used for fabric softeners and liquid starch
 - Do not put washing powder or liquid detergent into this compartment; it would clog the compartment up and reduce the machine's efficiency. The powder or gel remaining in this compartment may also irritate your skin or cause an allergic reaction.



▪ The right dosage (how much laundry detergent to use)

- Do not exceed the recommended dosage or overfill the compartment – if you do, the detergent may not get thoroughly washed off, and the machine may get clogged or begin to overfoam during a wash.
- When selecting a shorter cycle or washing a small load of laundry, less detergent is needed.

4. Load the washing machine.

- Load the machine only up to 2/3 of the total capacity of the drum (otherwise, your clothes may not come out as clean as you'd like them to).
- Some cycles allow only small load sizes (see the washing cycle chart).

5. Close the door/lid

Pay close attention to the old washing machines on the 10th floor!

- The older top-loading machines have an additional drum door – ensure it is sealed properly before starting a wash. Otherwise, your laundry and the washing machine get damaged.

6. Select the proper cycle

- The washing cycles differ in cycle length, speed, and water temperature. Each machine can also have extra functions or pre-wash options.
- Before pressing the start button, ensure the water flows through the supply hose.

7. Wait till the door unlocks at the end of the cycle

- Do not open the door before the end of the cycle.
- For some machines, it takes another 1-2 minutes after the cycle ends before you can open the door.
- Do not use brute force when trying to open the door.
- When the door is unlocked, you can hear a “clicking” sound, or a control light may turn on.

8. Remove the laundry from the drum

- Check that nothing is left in the drum or the rubber gasket (clothes, capsules, etc.) after you're done using the machine.

9. Check the drawer

- If there is a remaining detergent in the drawer, clean it up (you can wipe it or rinse it out).

10. Close the water tap

- Close the water inlet flow to avoid a water leak.

11. Unplug the washing machine and leave its drum door/lid open

- Leave the door/lid ajar so the air can flow throughout the machine and so it doesn't develop a musty odour.

And finally, don't forget to lock the laundry room door and turn the light off.

If there's anything wrong with the washing machine (e.g., a water leak), do not hesitate to report the problem to the reception! Quite often, it turns out that the electric fuses or water taps are at fault. The machine A10/3 often causes the electric fuses to blow. The machine A10/2 can sometimes display an “error” – when it does that, unplug it from the mains, then plug it in again and wait a few minutes for the door to unlock.

Some defects can be repaired by the dormitory maintenance worker and thus there is no need to call in an external technician (which would cost us time). If you have any trouble or questions regarding the washing machines, feel free to reach out to the Dormitory FB group or contact the receptionist in building A.

How to do laundry (recommendations)

When and how to use the pre-wash cycle?

Select a pre-wash cycle when your clothes are particularly dirty and could use extra washing (a pre-wash cycle can handle even muddy garments).

Fill the pre-wash compartment with washing powder and the main compartment with either washing powder or liquid detergent. However, use liquid detergent only if a flap is properly adjusted within the main compartment.

You can't use capsules/tablets during the pre-wash cycle.

How to prepare your laundry?

Empty your pockets. Coins, paper clips, etc., could damage your laundry or the machine. Any tissue paper left inside the drum during a wash will break into tiny pieces that you then must pick out from your clothes – one by one.

Close all zippers and fasten all hooks and buttons. Tie all loose drawstrings and fasten all belts. Insert smaller items (e.g., nylon stockings, belts, etc.) or items with hooks (e.g., bras) into a washing bag or a pillowcase with a zipper.

Turn your trousers, delicates, or t-shirts with logos and printings inside out.

Dry materials like flour, limescale, powdered milk, etc., must be removed from your clothes before putting them into the machine; otherwise, these small dusty particles could build up inside the machine over time and damage it.

How to sort your laundry?

Separate your laundry by colour, fabric type, soil level, and recommended water temperature. Always check the labels on your clothes for specific instructions.

Separate your laundry into whites, darks, and colours. You can avoid this step by purchasing colour catchers, which prevent coloured items from ruining your whites (and allow you to wash whites and darks together).

Synthetic and cotton fabrics can be washed together. Wool and delicate fabrics must be washed separately. You can also separate your laundry into towels, bed linen, sportswear, denim, underwear, and fine fabrics such as blouses, lace, or silk.

How to wash specific types of clothing?

- *T-shirts, shirts, and trousers* – can be washed at 30-40 °C and 800-1000 cycle speed. Some machines have a “MIXED” cycle intended for such laundry.
- *Underwear* – to sanitize properly, wash at least at 40 °C. Items made from cotton can withstand even 60 °C. To avoid damaging the underwear, set the cycle speed to 600-800.
- *Bras, delicate underwear, and swimwear* – wash at 30 °C with a cycle speed of 600. When washing delicate garments in the machine, use a washing bag. You can opt for hand washing.
- *Fines and delicates (blouses, lace, some sweaters)* – some machines have a specific cycle for delicate fabrics (usually marked by a feather symbol). The cycle speed shouldn't exceed 600 spins. Always hand-wash your silk.
- *Sportswear and functional underwear* – follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Select a cycle for sportswear or delicate fabrics and set the water temperature to 30-40 °C with a cycle speed between 600 and 800. When washing synthetic materials, use a detergent for sportswear. When washing merino wool, use a liquid detergent for merino wool. You can wash these fabrics without any detergent or with a smaller amount of less aggressive detergent without bleaching agents and enzymes.

- *Wool* – select a cycle for wool or hand-wash cycle at 30 °C with little to no spins. Use a detergent intended for wool. Do not wring out woolen clothes – dry them out in a horizontal position and avoid direct sunlight or drying them out directly over a heat source.
- *Towels, cloths, bed linen* – wash at least at 60 °C with cycle speed at 1000 or higher.
- *Recently purchased colours* – if you're washing recently purchased colours for the first time, wash them separately, as it may release the colour.

If you're unsure what water temperature to choose, check the tags of your clothes. Be careful when washing at higher temperatures, as the laundry could shrink and lose colour.

Pay close attention to stains on your laundry – stains from blood, wine, or tomatoes shouldn't be washed at high temperatures (>40°C); otherwise, they might become even more prominent. On the other hand, chocolate and oil stains are most easily removed at high temperatures.

When and how to use fabric softener?

Use fabric softener if you want your laundry to feel softer and smell really nice. Never pour the fabric softener straight into the drum, as it could stain your clothes.

Avoid the fabric softener when washing:

- Sportswear, functional underwear, and spandex (it would lose the elasticity)
- Bras, delicate underwear, and swimwear (when washing regular underwear, a small amount of softener can be used)
- Puffer jackets
- Children's clothes

Also, if:

- You could suffer an allergic reaction.
- You're using a tumble dryer.

For extra soft laundry, you can use a small amount of white vinegar instead of softener – simply put it into the fabric softener compartment. Vinegar has the same effect as a softener and doesn't cause the clothes to smell.

What's the difference between washing powder and liquid detergent?

The main difference between washing powder, liquid detergent, and laundry capsules is their ingredients and ability to remove stains. Washing powders (for white clothes) often contain bleaching agents and fabric brighteners, which make them more effective during washing, especially dirty laundry.

Liquid detergents dissolve easily, which makes them better for lower temperatures and shorter cycles. Laundry capsules contain liquid detergent and are easy to use, but sometimes the capsule might not dissolve completely. It is best to use specific detergents for whites, colours, and darks. The detergent for whites bleach, detergents for colours brighten, and detergents for darks keep the dark colours from fading.

How to get rid of stains

Use a stain remover before washing the laundry.

- 1) Apply the remover directly to the stain.
- 2) Rub it gently into the area with the stain.
- 3) Leave it on for approximately 5 minutes.
- 4) Put the clothing into the machine.

Using a gall soap can also be an effective way to tackle stains.